Numb. 109

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Perditur hæc inter miseris lux. Hor.

From *Saturday December* 17. to *Tuesday December* 20. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, December 19.

THERE has not some Years been such a Tumult in our Neighbourhood as this Evening about Six. At the lower End of the Lane the Word was given, That there was a great Funeral coming by. The next Moment came forward in a very hasty, instead of a solemn Manner, a long Train of Lights, when at last a Footman, in very high Youth and Health, with all his Force, ran through the whole Art of beating the Door of the House next to me, and ended his Rattle with the true finishing Rap. This did not only bring one to the Door at which he knocked, but to that of every one in the Lane in an Instant. Among the rest, my Country Maid took the Alarm, and immediately running to me, told me, there was a fine, fine Lady, who had Three Men with Burial Torches making Way before her, carried by Two Men upon Poles, with Looking-glasses on each Side of her, and one Glass also before, she her self appearing the prettiest that ever was. The Girl was going on in her Story, when the Lady was come to my Door in her Chair, having mistaken the House. As soon as she entered, I saw she was Mr. *Isaac*'s Scholar, by her Speaking Air, and the becoming Stop she made when she began her Apology. You'll be surprised Sir, (said she) that I take this Liberty, who am utterly a Stranger to you: Besides that, it may be thought an Indecorum that I visit a Man. She made here a pretty Hesitation, and held her Fan to her Face— Then, as if recovering her Resolution, she proceeded— But I think you have said, that Men of your Age are of no Sex; therefore I may be as free with you as one of my own. The Lady did me the Honour to consult me on some particular Matters, which I am not at Liberty to report. But before she took her Leave, she produced a long List of Names, which she looked upon to know whither she was to go next. I must confess, I could hardly forbear discovering to her immediately, that I secretly laughed at the fantastical Regularity she observed in throwing away her Time; but I seemed to indulge her in it, out of a Curiosity to hear her own Sense of her Way of Life. Mr. *Bickerstaff* (said she) you cannot imagine how much you are obliged to me in staying thus long with you, having so many Visits to make; and indeed, if I had not Hopes that a Third Part of those I am going to will be abroad, I should be unable to dispatch them this Evening. Madam (said I) Are you in all this Hast and Perplexity, and only going to such as you have not a Mind to see? Yes Sir, (said she) I have several now with whom I keep a constant Correspondence, and return Visit for Visit punctually every Week, and yet we have not seen each other since last *November* was Twelvemonth.

She went on with a very good Air, and, fixing her Eyes on her List, told me, she was obliged to ride about Three Miles and an half before she arrived at her own House. I ask'd after what Manner this List was taken, whether the Persons writ their Names to her, and desired that Favour, or how she knew she was not cheated in her Muster-Roll? The Method we take (says she) is, That the Porter or Servant who comes to the Door, write down all the Names who come to see us, and all such are entitled to a Return of their Visit. But said I, Madam, I presume those who are searching for each other, and know one another by Messages, may be understood as Candidates only for each other's Favour; and that after so many Howdee's, you proceed to visit or not, as you like the Run of each other's Reputation or Fortune. You understand it aright, said she, and we become Friends. Assoon as we are convinced that our Dislike to each other may be of any Consequence, for to tell you truly, said she, (for it is in vain to hide any Thing from a Man of your Penetration) general Visits are not made out of good Will, but for Fear of ill Will. Punctuality in this Case is often a suspicious Circumstance; and there is nothing so common as to have a Lady say, I hope she has heard nothing of what I said of her, that she grows so great with me— But indeed my Porter is so dull and negligent, that I fear he has not put down half the People I owe Visits to. Madam, said I, methinks it should be very proper if your Gentleman-Usher or Groom of the Chamber were always to keep an Account by Way of Debtor and Creditor. I know a City Lady who uses that Method, which I think very laudable; for tho' you may possibly at the Court-End of the Town receive at the Door, and light up better than within *Temple-Bar*, yet I must do that Justice to my Friends the Ladies within the Walls to own, that they are much more exact in their Correspondence. The Lady I was going to mention as an Example, has always the Second Prentice out of the Compting-house for her own Use on her Visiting-Day, and he sets down very methodically all the Visits which are made her. I remember very well, that on the first of *January* last, when she made up her Account for the Year 1708. it stood thus:

Mrs. *Courtwood*— Dr.		*Per contra* —— Cr.	
To Seventeen hundred and Four Visits received.	1704.	By Eleven hundred and Nine paid.	1109.
		Due to ballance	595.
			1704.

This Gentlewoman is a Woman of great Oeconomy, and was not afraid to go to the Bottom of her Affairs; and therefore ordered her Apprentice to give her Credit for my Lady *Easy*'s impertinent Visits upon wrong Days, and deduct only Twelve *per Cent.* He had Orders also to substract One and an Half from the whole of such as she had denied her self to before she kept a Day; and after taking those proper Articles of Credit on her Side, she was in Arrear but Five Hundred. She ordered her Husband to buy in a Couple of fresh Coach-Horses; and with no other Loss, than the Death of two Footmen, and a Church-yard Cough brought upon her Coachman, she was clear in the World on the 10th of *February* last, and keeps so before-hand, that she pays every body their own, and yet makes daily new Acquaintances. I know not whether this agreeable Visitant was fired with the Example of the Lady I told

told her of, but she immediately vanished out of my Sight, it being, it seems, as necessary a Point of good Breeding, to go off as if you stole something out of the House, as it is to enter as if you came to fire it. I do not know one Thing that contributes so much to the lessening the Esteem Men of Sense have to the Fair Sex as this Article of Visits. A young Lady cannot be married, but all the Impertinents in Town must be beating the *Tattoo* from one Quarter of the Town to the other, to show they know what passes. If a Man of Honour should once in an Age marry a Woman of Merit for her intrinsick Value, the envious Things are all in Motion in an Instant to make it known to the Sisterhood, as an Indiscretion, and publish to the Town how many Pounds he might have had to have been troubled with one of them. After they are tired with that, the next Thing is, to make their Compliments to the married Couple and their Relations. They are equally busy at a Funeral, and the Death of a Person of Quality is always attended with the Murder of several Sets of Coach-Horses and Chairmen. In both Cases, the Visitants are wholly unaffected, either with Joy or Sorrow. For which Reason, her Congratulations and Condolences are equally Words of Course; and one would be thought wonderfully ill-bred, that should build upon such Expressions as Encouragements, to expect from them any Instance of Friendship.

Thus are the true Causes of Living, and the solid Pleasures of Life, lost in Show, Imposture, and Impertinence. As for my Part, I think most of the Misfortunes in Families arise from the trifling Way the Women have in spending their Time, and gratifying only their Eyes and Ears, instead of their Reason and Understanding.

A fine young Woman, bred under a Visiting Mother, knows all that is possible for her to be acquainted with by Report, and sees the Virtuous and the Vicious used so indifferently, that the Fears she is born with are abated, and Desires indulged, in Proportion to her Love of that light and trifling Conversation. I know I talk like an old Man; but I must go on to say, that I think, the general Reception of mixed Company, and the Pretty Fellows that are admitted at those Assemblies, give a young Woman so false an Idea of Life, that she is generally bred up with a Scorn of that Sort of Merit in a Man, which only can make her happy in Marriage; and the Wretch to whose Lot she falls, very often receives in his Arms a Coquet, with the Refuse of an Heart long before given away to a Coxcomb.

Having received from the Society of Upholders sundry Complaints of the obstinate and refractory Behaviour of several dead Persons, who have been guilty of very great Outrages and Disorders, and by that Means elaps'd the proper Time of their Interrment; and having on the other Hand received many Appeals from the aforesaid dead Persons, wherein they desire to be heard before such their Interrment; I have set apart Wednesday *the 21st Instant as an extraordinary Court-Day for the hearing both Parties. If therefore any one can alledge why they or any of their Acquaintance should or should not be buried, I desire they may be ready with their Witnesses at that Time, or that they will for ever after hold their Tongues.*

N. B. *This is the last Hearing on this Subject.*

Advertisements.

SIR William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist in Durham Yard in the Strand, London, by his long Practice, and great Experience, has lately found out a Medicine that clarifies the Eyes from Suffusions, and strengthens the Optick Nerves, which infallibly prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preserves the Sight in Old or Young. He likewise couches Cataracts without Pain, or much Confinement, if they apply themselves to him before damaged by Pretenders; as will be attested by many Persons of Quality and others that have found the good Effect thereof. He also cures Hair lips, or Wry Necks, that never so deformed; or contracted Limbs, and has lately taken several Wens of a great Bigness particularly one from a Gentlewoman that weighed 16 Pounds, without any Effusion of Blood, after the Application of his Styptick Water, which all People may be furnished with at his House, with the Medicines for the Eyes above-mentioned, and by my Lady Read in his Absence.

Just publish'd,

*** The Glorious and Successful Campaign of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy for the Year 1709. Wherein is displayed the remarkable Sieges of Tournay and Mons; a Prospect of the Battle of Blaregnies, near Mons, between the Confederates and French, together with an exact Plan of the same; as also the Plans of the Town and Citadel of Tournay and Mons; to which is added, a Plan of the Battle of Pultowa, between the Swedes and the Muscovites. Printed on 3 Sheets of Imperial Paper; being 4 Foot long, and two Foot 8 Inches Deep. To which is annex'd, an Historical Account of the Campaign in the Netherlands. Price 2 s. Sold by P. Overton at the Golden-Buck against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet street, and H. Overton at the White-Horse without Newgate.

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THIS Chrystal Cosmetick, approv'd of by the Worthy Dr. Paul Chamberline, viz. by washing Morning or Evening, cures all red Faces, proceeding from what Cause soever: It takes off all Morphews, Pimples, and Freckles; it's of a soft Nature, cleansing and adorning the Face and Hands of both Sexes in a very beautiful Manner; and may be us'd with as much Safety as Milk, having in it no Mercury (so frequently made Use of) or any other Thing that may be prejudicial to the Body, being the best of this Nature now extant. The Price of the largest Bottle 6 s. the lesser 3 s. To be sold at Mr. Allcroft's at the Blew-Coat Boy, a Toyshop, against the Royal-Exchange, Cornhil; at Mrs. Stephens's, the Comb under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet; at Mr. Brecknock's, Milliner over against St. James's-street, Piccadilly; at the Unicorn in Cheapside near Woodstreet. Note, to prevent Counterfeits, each single Bottle with Directions, is tied and sealed with this Coat of Arms, being a Frett, with a Lion Rampant in a Canton.

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*** Love without Affectation. In Five Letters, from a Portuguese Nun to a French Cavalier. Done into English Verse from the newest Edition, lately printed at Paris. To which is added, a Preface ory Discourse of the Nature and Use of such Epistles in general, with the Excellency of these in particular, &c. never before extant. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers Hall, and J. Woodward in Threadneedle-street. Price Bound 1 s.

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*** London's Medicinal INFORMER; containing a brief Inquiry into the Ancient and Present State of the Practice of Physick and Surgery: Quacks Characteris'd and Challeng'd, the Secret Disease, in its Cause, Nature, Signs, dangerous Effects, and best, most cheap, easy, and private Methods of Cure, truly Represented; in order to prevent People's being ruin'd, either by that Disease, or by unskilful Pretenders to its Cure. Sold by B. Bragge, at the Raven in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 1 s.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are continued Instances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been reliev'd by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleetstreet. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhil: At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above mention'd.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all Sorts of Binding, viz. Right Sheep green, red and blue Turky, Russia-Leather, &c. Mr. Sturt's Cuts, curiously engraven, with all other Sorts of Cuts either for Bibles or Common-Books of Prayers; the Sacrament and Devotion, bound with the Common-Prayer or single; Tate and Brady's new Psalms, with the new Supplement; Bunker on the New Testament, in Folio; the fourth and last Edition of the Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, &c. Winchester Manual; a new British Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechisms, for the Use of Charity-Schools, by Wholesale or Retale, at reasonable Rates. Quires for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewise taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers-Court near the Hall within Ludgate.

*** A Supplement to the New Version of Psalms, by Dr. Brady, and Mr. Tate; containing, the Psalms in particular Measures; the usual Hymns, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, Holy Sacrament, &c. with Gloria Patri's, and Tunes (Treble and Bass) proper to each of them, and all the rest of the Psalms. The Sixth Edition, Corrected; and much enlarged. With the Addition of Plain Instructions for all those who are to learn or improve themselves in Psalmody; near 50 new Tunes, composed by several of the best Masters; and a Table of Psalms suited to the Feasts and Fasts of the Church, &c. With Tables of all the Psalms of the New, Old, and Dr. Patrick's Versions, directing what Tunes are fitted for each Psalm. The Whole being a Compleat Psalmody. Useful for Teachers and Learners of either Version. Printed; and Sold by J. Holland, at the Bible and Bell, at the West-End of St. Paul's.

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